

2 Samuel 15 keywords and shape

After this **Absalom** got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty **men** to run before his face of him. **Absalom** used to rise early and stand beside the road into the gate; and when any **man** brought a suit before the **king** for judgment, **Absalom** would call out and say, "From what city are you?" When the person said, "Your **slave** is of such and such a tribe in Israel," **Absalom** would say, "See, your claims are good and right; but there is no one from the **king** to hear you." **Absalom** said moreover, "If only I were judge in the land! Then all **men** who had a suit or cause might come to me, and I would give them justice." Whenever a **man** came near to do obeisance to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of them and kiss them. Thus **Absalom** did to every Israelite who came to the **king** for judgment; so **Absalom** stole the hearts of the **men** of Israel.

At the end of four years **Absalom** said to the **king**, "Please **let me go** to Hebron and pay the vow that I have made to YHWH. For your **slave** made a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram: If YHWH **will return** me, yes, **return** me to settle in Jerusalem, then I will worship YHWH in Hebron." The **king** said to him, "**Go** in peace." So he stood up and **went** to Hebron. But **Absalom** sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say: **Absalom** has become **king** at Hebron!" Two hundred **men** from Jerusalem **went** with **Absalom**; they were invited guests, and **they went** in their innocence, knowing nothing of the matter. While **Absalom** was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, **David's** counselor, from his city Giloh. The conspiracy grew in strength, and the people **going** with **Absalom** kept increasing.

Someone went to David, saying, "The heart of the **man**, Israel, has gone after **Absalom**." Then **David** said to all his **slaves** who were with him at Jerusalem, "Stand up and flee, or there will be no escape for us from **Absalom**. Hurry, **go**, and hurry, he will soon overtake us, and will thrust evil on us, and attack the city with the edge of the sword." The **king's slaves** said to the **king**, "All that you choose, our lord the king, behold, we are your **slaves**!"

So the king came out on foot and all his house, except ten concubine women whom he left behind to look after the house. The **king** came out and all the people on foot; and they stopped at the Far House. All his **slaves passed by** his hand; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the six hundred Gittites, **men** who had gone by foot with him from Gath, **passed on** before the **king's** face.

Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also coming with us? **Return** and stay with the **king**; for you are a foreigner, and also an exile from your place. You **went** only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander, yes, wander about with us, while **I go** wherever I can? **Return**, yes, **return**, and take your kinsfolk with you; and may YHWH show steadfast love and faithfulness to you." But Ittai answered the **king**, "As YHWH lives, and as my lord the **king** lives, wherever my lord the **king** may be, whether for death or for life, there also your **slave** will be." **David** said to Ittai, "**Go** then, **pass through**." So Ittai the Gittite **passed through**, with all his **men** and all the little ones who were with him.

The whole country wept aloud as all the people **passed through**; the **king passed through** the Wadi Kidron, and all the people **passed through** toward the wilderness. And behold, **Abiathar** came up, and **Zadok** also, with all the Levites, carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, until the people had all **passed through** from of the city.

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God **return** into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of YHWH, **he will return** me and let me see both it and his pasture where it stays. But if he says, 'I take no pleasure in you,' here I am, let him do to me what seems good in his eyes." The **king** also said to the priest **Zadok**, "Look [or "are you a seer"], **return** to the city in peace, you and **Abiathar**, with your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan son of **Abiathar**. See, I will wait at the fords of the wilderness until word **goes** from you to inform me."

So **Zadok** and **Abiathar** carried the ark of God **back to Jerusalem**, and they remained there. But **David** ascended the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as **he went**, with his head covered and walking barefoot; and all the people who were with him covered their **man-heads** and ascended, yes, ascended, weeping as they went.

David was told that Ahithophel was among the conspirators with **Absalom**. And **David** said, "O YHWH, I pray you, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

When **David went** to the head, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and earth on his head. **David** said to him, "If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me. But if **you return** to the city and say to **Absalom**, 'I will be your **slave**, O **king**; as I have been your father's **slave** in time past, so now I will be your **slave**,' then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel. The priests **Zadok** and **Abiathar** will be with you there. So whatever you hear from the **king's** house, tell it to the priests **Zadok** and **Abiathar**. Their two sons are with them there, **Zadok's** son Ahimaaz and **Abiathar's** son Jonathan; and by their hand you shall report to me everything you hear." So Hushai, **David's** friend, **went** into the city, just as **Absalom was going** into Jerusalem.